

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for conducting magnetic resonance tomographic microscopy comprising:
  - 5 placing a non-crystalline sample under the influence of a static polarizing first magnetic field;
  - introducing a radio-frequency field perpendicular to the first magnetic field;
  - obtaining two or more magnetically resonant spins of the sample simultaneously by sequentially angularly rotating, around a prescribed axis, the sample with respect to a ferromagnetic sphere having a second magnetic field; and
  - 10 reconstructing an image of the sample based on a signal obtained from the magnetically resonant spins using computerized tomography.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample comprises a small molecule, protein, cell or other biological material of interest.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is about  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  a size of the ferromagnetic sphere.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the reconstructing is performed by a Fourier transform filtered backprojection algorithm for parallel projections of the magnetic resonance spins from the ferromagnetic sphere through the sample.
- 20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the reconstructing is performed by a

Fourier transform of a radon transform, multiplication by a ramp function  $|k|$  in conjugate space, followed by an inverse transformation, and integration over all angles in accordance with:

$$\rho(y, z) = \int_0^\pi \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} P_\phi(q) \cdot e^{i2\pi kq} dq \right] |k| e^{-i2\pi kq} dk \right\} d\phi$$

5 where  $\phi$  is the angle between the sample and ferromagnetic sphere and  $q$  is the prescribed axis.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising correcting for nonlinear projection distortion prior to a first step in the Fourier transform filtered  
10 backprojection algorithm.

7. The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
deconvolving each projection from a Lorentzian line shape prior to performing  
the Fourier transform filtered backprojection; and  
15 performing a linearization prior to performing the Fourier transform filtered  
backprojection.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is placed with respect to  
the ferromagnetic sphere wherein contours of the second magnetic field from the  
20 ferromagnetic sphere are perpendicular to the sample, but vary slightly in an  
intersecting radius of curvature.

9. An system for conducting magnetic resonance tomographic

microscopy comprising:

- a static polarizing first magnetic field ;
- a non-crystalline sample under an influence of the first magnetic field;
- a radio-frequency field perpendicular to the first magnetic field;
- 5 a ferromagnetic sphere having a second magnetic field, wherein two or more magnetically resonant spins of the sample are simultaneously obtained by sequentially angularly rotating, around a prescribed axis, the sample with respect to the ferromagnetic sphere; and
- a computer configured to reconstruct an image of the sample based on the
- 10 obtained magnetically resonant spins using computerized tomography.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the sample comprises a small molecule, protein, cell, or other biological material of interest.

15 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the sample is about 1/10<sup>th</sup> a size of the ferromagnetic sphere.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the computer is configured to reconstruct the image using a Fourier transform filtered backprojection algorithm for

20 parallel projections of the magnetic resonance spins from the ferromagnetic sphere through the sample.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the computer is configured to

reconstruct the image using a Fourier transform of a radon transform, multiplication by a ramp function  $|k|$  in conjugate space, followed by an inverse transformation, and integration over all angles in accordance with:

$$\rho(y, z) = \int_0^\pi \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} P_\phi(q) * e^{i2\pi kq} dq \right] |k| e^{-i2\pi kq} dk \right\} d\phi$$

5 where  $\phi$  is the angle between the sample and ferromagnetic sphere and  $q$  is the  
prescribed axis.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the computer is further configured to  
reconstruct the image by correcting for nonlinear projection distortion prior to a first  
10 step in the Fourier transform filtered backprojection algorithm.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the computer is further configured to  
reconstruct the image by:  
deconvolving each projection from a Lorentzian line shape prior to performing  
15 the Fourier transform filtered backprojection; and  
performing a linearization prior to performing the Fourier transform filtered  
backprojection.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein the sample is placed with respect to the  
20 ferromagnetic sphere wherein contours of the second magnetic field from the  
ferromagnetic sphere are perpendicular to the sample, but vary slightly in an  
intersecting radius of curvature.